



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

It remains to consider the relations of this word *abonner* (*abosner*, *aborner*) to Mod. Fr. *abonner*. DIEZ's article on the latter word ('E. W.' iic) reads:

Abonner fr. auf ein unbestimmtes einkommen einen bestimmten preis setzen, *s'abonner* sich als theilhaber an etwas unterschreiben; von *bonus* gut, bürgend, vgl. sp. *abonar*, bürgen, gut heissen, versichern. Man leitet es ohne noth von *bonne* gränze.

Neither LITRÉ nor SCHELER accedes to this view, the former rejecting altogether the derivation from *bonus*, the latter admitting it as equally possible with the other. From a careful comparison of the early uses of *abonner* I believe it will appear that the word presents a merging of *AD-BODINARE and *AD-BONARE. For the meaning 'delimit' (*AD-BODINARE) no example could be more conclusive than the following from FROISSART, 'Chroniques' xi, 311 (cited by Godefroy): "Et furent adont et par bonne traittié deportis, devises et *abonnes* les deux roiaulmes de Portingal et de Castille."—For the meaning 'guarantee' (*AD-BONARE) compare (from GODEFROY):

Mol lit, blans dras et chambre bonne
Ayse de bien dormir *abonne*.

Summing up the above results, we should have the following series of equations:

1. *abomer* = ABOMINARI;
2. *abosmer* = *ABYSMARE;
3. *abosmir* = *ABYSMIRE;
4. $\begin{cases} \textit{abonner} \\ \textit{abosmer} \end{cases} = \begin{cases} *AD-BODINARE, \\ *AD-BONARE. \end{cases}$

H. A. TODD.

THE ETYMOLOGY OF ENGLISH 'TOTE.'

AMONG my earliest recollections is the use of the word *tote*. It is a word in use everywhere in the South and signifies both 'to bring' and 'to carry,' especially on one's head or shoulders. A Virginian, "F. W.," in a recent number of *The Critic*, has been trying to rescue this and another word, *raised*, "from the ridicule that now surrounds them." The word *tote*, he says, is properly "tolt" from "tollo," a term in common use at the English bar, from 1600 to the middle of the century, for lifting or removing a writ from one court to

another, and thence applied at large to the lifting of any object." As "F. W." observes, WEBSTER has no more to say of this word than "probably of African origin." This conjecture is possibly due to its frequent use by the Negroes. But this use is not confined to them. From *American Notes and Queries* for February 7, 1891, we find that it is very common not only "in Kentucky and Indiana" but also "all along the Ohio and Mississippi rivers," and in the next issue of the same journal "C. H. A." states that *tote* is in common use all through the State of Maine, where its meaning is 'to carry.' To this note I will refer again, as the usage of this word in Maine substantiates, I think, my proposed etymology.

This waif of the South presents an interesting view of the working of the human mind. The first approach to its origin is in the word *tout*, now confined to race courses. In horse-racing a *tout* is one who clandestinely watches the trials of race-horses at their training quarters, and for a fee gives information for betting purposes. Another spelling is *toot*, and English literature affords many examples of this word where it means 'to pry or search, peep about.' Two of these will suffice:

"For birds in bushes *tooting*." SPENSER'S 'Shepherds' Kalendar,' March, l. 66.

"Marking, spying, looking, *tooting*, watching like subtle, crafty and sleight fellows." LATIMER, 'Sermons' fol. 88.

In older authors, contemporary with and before CHAUCER, it was spelled *tote*, and FAIRFAX in his translation of TASSO follows this spelling:

"Nor durst Orcano view the soldans face,
But still upon the ground did pore and *tote*."

In 'Pierce the Plowman's Crede' we find several examples of *tote*, where it means 'to see clearly, look out, spy round, peep out': "to *toten* all abouten," l. 168: and "his ton *toteden* out," l. 426.

LANGLAND, in 'Piers the Ploughman,' uses it in the sense of 'to look, view':

"And bad me *toten* on the tree." B. xvi, 22;

and it is found in several other writings of this period with the same meaning.

This form *toten* is derived from Old English

totian, 'to project, stick out,' of which only one example is found:

ða heafdu totodun ut, 'the heads project out.' GREGORY'S 'Past. Care.' c. xvi, p. 104. From this unique example we get at the etymology of the word; for it is connected with Old Dutch *tuyt*, *tote*, 'a teat'=Old High German *tutta*, the same=Icelandic *tuta* 'a peak' (cf. English *Tothill*, 'a lookout hill')=Swedish *tut*, 'a point,'=Danish *tude*, 'a spout.' "The original sense," as SKEAT tells us, "was 'to project,' hence, 'to put out one's head, peep about, look all around,' and finally 'to tout for custom.'" But this is not the end, for here comes in our usage of *tote*. "The tradesmen of Tunbridge Wells," NARES tells us, "were used formerly to hunt out customers on the road, at their arrival, and hence they were called *tooters*." Then as now, as soon as a *tooter* secured a passenger, he doubtless took his baggage and carried it to the inn for him, and hence arose the use of *tote* 'to carry.' This conjecture I had made before I saw "C. H. A.'s" note in *American Notes and Queries* for February 14, 1891, which I think confirms it. He says: "Roads to lumber camps, and over which supplies to the camp were carried, are always called *tote roads*, and the teamsters are called *toters*. To *tote* a thing from one place to another is in familiar use all through the State [Maine], so far as I have travelled." We thus see that *tote* is not "probably of African origin," nor is it "from *tollo*," nor is it a Southernism or even an Americanism. But, like almost all other colloquialisms in the United States, it has a good English and Teutonic ancestry.

W. M. BASKERVILL.

Vanderbilt University.

A THEORY FOR THE ORIGIN OF A COMMON IDIOM.

It is interesting to observe the wide-spread use of the possessive (apostrophe and *s*) after the preposition *of*. I cite a few instances that have come under my notice within the last few days:

"These words of Emerson's may be called to mind."—N. Y. *Nation*, March 19, 1891.

"A better remark of Vespasian's deserves to be as well-known as it is."—*Littell's Liv-*

ing Age, March 14, 1891. (*National Review*).

Short Cuts has unearthed a peculiarly delightful letter of the Duke of Wellington's.—*Littell's Living Age*, March 14, 1891. (*Speculator*).

"A great saying of Joubert's.—PATER'S 'The Renaissance,' p. 45.

"That quaint design of Botticelli's."—*ib.*, p. 61.

"Pictures like this of Botticelli's.—*ib.*, p. 61.

Finally, the heading of a lyric by ARTHUR SYMONS in *The Athenæum*: "For a picture of Watteau's."—*Littell's Living Age*, March 21, 1891.

There have been various explanations for this construction. It has been considered due to mere euphony, or to the emphasis of the idea of the subjective relation, or to the existence of a feeling that an associated word is understood in thought, or (treating it historically) to an imitation and extension of such expressions as "a friend of mine." These last pronominal constructions are used only when a modifier such as *a*, *any*, *every*, *no*, etc., precedes the noun (cf. EINENKEL, 'Streifzüge' pp. 85-6), and are very different in thought and in feeling from others, like "for the life of me," associated with a negative.

So far as I have been able to observe, this use of the possessive after the preposition *of* seems to have its origin in cases where a plural noun or a class term may be inserted in thought and the preceding modifying word indicates that only a part of the whole is taken. The construction is therefore akin to that of the partitive genitive. For instance, in the above examples, there are many words and sayings of EMERSON and JOUBERT, many pictures painted by BOTTICELLI and WATTEAU, VESPASIAN made many remarks, and WELLINGTON wrote many letters—and in all these cases there is brought to our notice only *one* (except in the first, and this deals with *a few*).

True, in an example like the last ("a picture of Watteau's"), the possessive form may be accounted for as used to avoid ambiguity and to emphasize the subjective relation, since "a picture of Watteau" would more naturally signify one *representing* WATTEAU. This ambiguity finds its explanation not so much in